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Application No.10/773,446

NOV 07 2006

Docket No.: 66145(300604)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~delaying or reversing~~ treating a mammalian subject having, or at risk of developing, a retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition that is associated with increased expression of matrix metalloproteinase, membrane-associated 1 (MT1-MMP), the method comprising diagnosing said subject with, or at risk of developing, said retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition in a subject, and the method comprising contacting a retinal or choroidal cell of a said subject having, or at risk of developing, a retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition with an agent that decreases the expression or activity of an AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene or protein, or decreases the activity of an AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related protein, wherein said AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene or protein is MT1-MMP, thereby treating said disease or condition.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene is comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~selected from the group consisting of human unknown PHG-1; prostaglandin D2 synthase; myelin basic protein; human unknown PHG-4; human unknown PHG-5; human peanut-like 2/septin 4; coactosin like 1; clusterin; casein kinase 1 epsilon; ferritin heavy polypeptide 1; metargidin; human unknown PHG-13; retinaldehyde binding protein 1; actin gamma 1; matrix metalloproteinase, membrane-associated 1 (MT1-MMP) protein; SWI/SNF-related/OSA-1 nuclear protein; and human unknown AMDP-3; said AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related genes, said nucleic acid comprising the respective nucleotide sequence[[s]] identified as SEQ ID NO [[S]]:~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition is age-related macular degeneration (AMD).
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said subject suffers from AMD.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said subject is at risk of developing AMD.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method delays the retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method reverses the retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cell is a photoreceptor, an RPE cell, a Muller cell, or a cell type of the choroid selected from the group consisting of an endothelial cell, a smooth muscle cell, a leukocyte, a macrophage, a melanocyte and a fibroblast.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said ~~AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene is MT1-MMP~~, and said MT1-MMP gene or protein is located within said cell.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said ~~AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene is MT1-MMP~~ and said MT1-MMP protein is located in an extracellular matrix.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said extracellular matrix is an interphotoreceptor matrix.

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13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said agent down-regulates expression of a nucleic acid or amino acid sequence of ~~an AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene, said gene selected from the group consisting of MT1-MMP, prostaglandin D2 synthase and AMDP-3.~~

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said agent is an oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of a ribozyme, an antisense DNA or RNA, and interfering RNA (RNAi), and a triple helix forming molecule.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~1, wherein said agent is an antibody that specifically binds to a MT1-MMP, ~~prostaglandin D2 synthase or AMDP-3~~ protein or peptide.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said antibody neutralizes at least one biological activity of MT1-MMP, ~~prostaglandin D2 synthase or AMDP-3.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said ~~AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene is MT1-MMP and~~ said biological activity is activation of progelatinase A or degradation of extracellular matrix.

18-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence of said AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene encodes a human MT1-MMP protein, and ~~comprises~~consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:15, or a polymorphic variant thereof.

54-56. (Cancelled)

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57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a single chain antibody and an Fab fragment.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the antibody is administered by injection into the eye.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said antibody is administered to the subretinal space.

61-62. (Cancelled)